

Pupukea Task Force Meeting
February 16, 2000 Wednesday
Waimea Falls Park, Oahu

The meeting began at about 6:40PM with a pule by Wayne Holu. There were eight members present, the boaters and the neighborhood board representatives were absent. Linda Colburn was not able to attend so Athline Clark again facilitated the meeting with the approval of the TF.

The first item on the agenda was the group reports. The following reports were presented:

- Carl (commercial diver operators) provided a handout of his group's method of operations.
- Ken (conservationists) reported that he would be leaving the islands for six months and asked that Daniel be allowed to replace him on the TF. The group agreed.
- David (recreational fishers) provided a handout of his group's request for certain allowances for pole and line fishing within both the current Pupukea Marine Life Conservation District (MLCD) and Waimea Bay. These requests included a trial period to see what impacts recreational fishing has on resources, an alternating open and closed fishing year schedule, recreational bag limits, no sale of fish caught. His group's request would be further discussed later during tonight's meeting.
- Marlu (community) asked if all the information presented so far could be made available to the general public. We informed her that all meeting notes are posted on the DLNR website, except two meetings, and that a summary report would be prepared.

The next item was the TF discussion on the use of pole and line fishing within proposal C.

- Pole and line fishing (p/l) should be allowed throughout the MLCD
- Should p/l be allowed from kayaks in Waimea Bay only? Some agreed and some did not.
- P/l has low impact on resources so should allow some fishing in at least some areas.

Three main items needed to be discussed further

- 1) should there be p/l along the shoreline in Waimea Bay
 - 2) should only non-motorized boats be allowed in Waimea Bay
 - 3) should p/l along the shore be allowed in both Waimea and the MLCD
- One member asked if the TF was willing to revisit the boundary issue in proposal C. The group voted not to revisit, except for one.
 - 99% of the p/l along the shore is on sand beaches, not usually along rocks as these places are difficult to walk to and fish from
 - p/l along rocky shore of Pupukea side of Waimea bay should be alright to fish

- p/l should be allowed in all of Waimea bay
- p/l should be limited to two poles/person
- could the MLCD be divided in two to allow p/l in the 3 Tables area

The next item on the agenda was the discussion on the commercial dive operations. Carl gave his group's thought on this issue.

- the current City permit process already exists, should use it
- guided tours help to limit impacts on resources
- need to better manage access to areas
- concerns such as parking, residents being pushed out, trash, increased traffic, and physical threats should not be reasons to restrict businesses
- should not restrict businesses that do not cause harm to the area
- advocates reasonable and sensible use

Other comments:

- logic does not always work in the real world
- diving industry needs to make some sacrifices to protect resources
- would support no diving on weekends

Carol Shé (Division of Boating & Ocean Recreation) provided a handout of the division's purpose which is to manage the different user groups to reduce conflicts

- there is a problem with the number of commercial diving operations at Pupukea
- uses a formula based on number of available space to determine number of permits to issue

Complaints she's received

- too many groups, too many people in each group, too much use of restrooms, too many people in the water

Other comments

- commercial divers should put together a proposal on how they will work towards improving how they will operate to address concerns
- need to consider impacts that commercial businesses have on existing public facilities (showers, sewers, street drainage, parking, traffic)
- need to separate perceptions from facts
- some activities are mutually exclusive, some are not mutually exclusive and can exist together
- some ways to better manage activities is to limit the number of activities that can occur in an area by a permit system
- need to know who is complaining - those not even using the area don't understand the problems
- need to inform public about what rules businesses currently operate under, such as the number of persons allowed in the water by each business
- need to better identify the cause of the problems
- education is the most important part in dive operations
- cooperation among all users is critical for co-existence
- commercial dive operators in Mexico can enforce regulations on themselves so can stop unlawful activities and immediately correct problems - need to do

- same here
- commercial activities shouldn't be limited by lack of public facilities, facilities should be updated to meet the needs
 - commercial dive operations already are self regulating
 - commercial dive operators support the current City permit system but are willing to consider other systems if those other systems are better for business
 - current City permit process at Hanauma Bay does not promote long-term support for business
 - City and State permits are not mutually exclusive, can have both at the same time
 - State permits can cover City permits but not the opposite
 - ORMA rules already manage uses out to 3,000 feet from shore
 - the scientific community strongly recommends more studies to identify what the problems are so can make wise decisions on possible solutions

A vote was taken on the question:
Should the dive operators keep the current City permit process or use another process? The TF voted to keep the current system.

Next meeting

- continue discussions on pole and line fishing
- presentation by commercial fishing group
- presentation by commercial dive operators on their proposals for self regulation
- Wednesday, March 15th, 6:30pm
- meeting adjourned at 9:00pm